

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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### **BREDESEN NAMES NEELEY LABOR COMMISSIONER**

**Nashville, TN** – Governor-elect Phil Bredesen today named James G. Neeley as the next commissioner of the Tennessee Department of Labor and Workforce Development.

Neeley, who is active in a wide range of labor and workforce initiatives, is the longtime president of the Tennessee AFL-CIO Labor Council and president of the AFL-CIO Southern Region. He is chairman of the Tennessee Council on Vocational Education and chairman of the Tennessee Center for Labor-Management Relations, a partnership with the Labor Department, University of Tennessee, Middle Tennessee State University and the Tennessee Board of Regents.

“Jim understands the challenges facing Tennessee’s working families and employers as we begin to turn around the economy,” Bredesen said. “He also knows the importance of promoting a skilled, educated workforce to help Tennessee attract new jobs.”

The Department of Labor and Workforce Development has a range of responsibilities, including administering the state’s unemployment insurance and workers’ compensation programs, coordinating job-training programs, tracking unemployment rates, supplying employers with labor market information and enforcing workplace safety standards.

“It’s an honor to serve the working men and women of Tennessee as well as their employers,” Neeley said. “We’ll work hard to help businesses and workers succeed together.”

Neeley has been president of the Tennessee AFL-CIO since 1979. He is a past board member of the national AFL-CIO, a voluntary organization of 65 national and international labor unions. Before joining the AFL-CIO, he served four years—from 1975 to 1979—as state labor commissioner. He is a member of the Tennessee Workforce Development Board and a member of the Tennessee Workers’ Compensation Advisory Council.

Neeley, 61, is a Huntingdon native. He is a former board chairman of the Huntingdon Special School District. He attended the University of Tennessee at Martin.

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